

Maximizing My Maturity

"Pleasing God", Part 6 of 6
Pastor Vince DiPaola

"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God." (Colossians 1:9-10, NIV)

Five Things You Must Know (But Maybe Don't Know) About The Bible And Maturity

I) THE BIG PROBLEM: A LACK OF ____ BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE ____.

"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land— not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD. Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it." (Amos 8:11-12, NIV)

"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6a, NIV)

II) THE BEST PROTECTION: A CALL TO ____ DESIRE & DISCERN THE BIBLE ACCURATELY ____.

"As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." (Acts 17:10-11, NIV)

III) THE BASIC PURSUIT: A PLAN TO ____ STUDY & APPLY BIBLICAL TRUTH ____.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15, NIV)

"Study to show thyself approved unto God..." (2 Timothy 2:15a, KJV)

IV) THE BENEFICIAL PROVISION: A CHURCH TO ____ DEEPEN & STRENGTHEN YOUR THEOLOGY ____.

"Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately." (Acts 18:24-26, NIV)

V) THE BIBLICAL PROMISE: A LIFE OF ____ DIRECTION & FULFILLMENT IN GOD ____.

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:10-12, NIV)

"The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold." (Psalm 119:72, NIV)